

REMARKS

Claims 1-8, 10 and 11 are now present in this application.

The specification and claims 1, 10 and 11 have been amended and claim 9 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 4 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by NAKAHARA, U.S. Patent 5,967,905. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 10 and 11 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over NAKAHARA in view of SHIRA, U.S. Patent 5,669,825. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 7 and 8 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over NAKAHARA in view of CHIU, U.S. Patent 6,617,537. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 is directed to a golf club head which includes a club head body and a weight member with an engaging flange. The engaging flange of the club head body will engage with the engaging portion of the weight member after the welding step.

By contrast, the NAKAHARA et al. patent fails to disclose a club head body having an engaging flange of a recess and a weight member having an engaging portion which will engage with the engaging flange of the club head body after the welding step. Additionally, the SHIRA patent only discloses a toe 2, a middle

portion 4, and a heel 6, and also fails to disclose a club head body having a melted engaging flange to engage with an engaging portion of a club head member. The toe and heel (2 and 6) of the SHIRA patent should not be considered as the weight member of the claimed invention. These are totally different parts of the golf club. The CHIU patent discloses a welding flange 12 of a golf club head 10 applied to a striking plate 20 without an engaging portion. Mainly, the striking plate 20 fails to teach providing an engaging portion to engage with an engaging flange 12 of the club head body 10.

None of the references utilized in these rejections disclose or suggest a club head body having an engaging flange and a weight member having an engaging portion after the welding step. One of ordinary skill in the art could not possibly, in the absence of hindsight, have conceived of using a weight for the NAKAHARA et al. patent and a welding flange 12 of the CHIU patent to achieve such an engaging flange of the club head body and an engaging portion of the weight of the claimed invention. There is no suggestion in the prior art for such a modification.

It is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1, as well as the dependent claims, set forth a club head which is neither suggested nor rendered obvious by the prior art utilized by the Examiner. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 USC 102(b) and 103 rejections are respectfully requested.

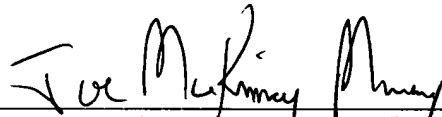
Because the additional prior art cited by the Examiner has been included merely to show the state of the prior art and has not been utilized to reject the claims, no further comments concerning these documents are considered necessary at this time.

In the event that any outstanding matters remain in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By 
Joe McKinney Muncy, #32,334

KM/asc
3624-0119P

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000